SPECIAL REPORT: PC Portables Join The Executive Ranks

A CAHNERS PUBLICATION

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

DATAMATION®

FOR MANAGERS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORLDWIDE

LIBRARY
ASS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MAR 18

MARCH 1, 1991

UNIX Server CLOUT!

page 22

Larry Boucher, president, Auspex Systems Inc., with the NS 5000

Rewritable Optical Still Not In Overdrive page 35

Curing The LAN Support Blues page 41

Stop Net Faults Before They Stop You page 44

Plug Your Customers In page 49

UNIX Goes On Line page 53

A PC Gateway For AS/400s page 57

Mark

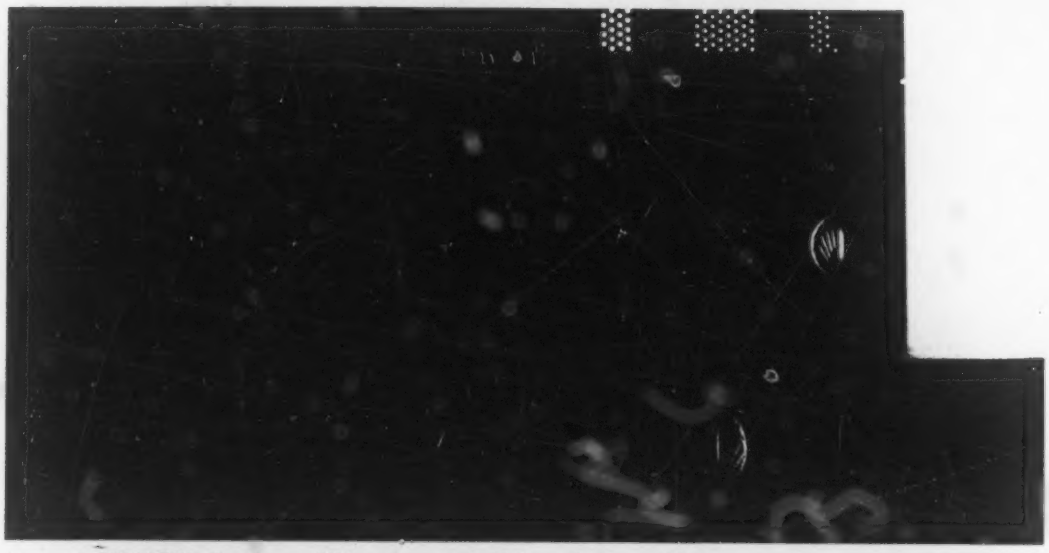
page 61 PC Accounting Software

MARCH 1, 1991

DATAMATION

FOR MANAGERS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORLDWIDE

VOLUME 37
NUMBER 5



Auspex's NS 5000 is the shape of things to come in high-performance file servers.

COVER STORY

SERVERS

UNIX Server Clout! 22

BY DAVID STAMPS Auspex Systems is smack in the middle of the growing market for superservers that operate as foundations for workstation networks. Some Sun users, faced with I/O bottlenecks and sluggish network performance, are turning to Auspex for relief.

Cover photography by Christopher Springman

SPECIAL REPORT

MS-DOS PORTABLES

PC Portables Join The Executive Ranks 29

BY BOB FRANCIS, JOHN McMULLEN AND JEFF MOAD Portables are fast becoming indispensable. Pen-based systems are coming, and speech recognition may be just a few years away.

PRODUCT GUIDE

FEATURE

A PC Gateway For AS/400s 57

BY TOM McCUSKER Now you can connect four times more PCs to an AS/400 through one server with Bluelynx.

Micro-Integration's Filion answers the call for multiple gateway support.

FEATURES

PCs & WORKSTATIONS

STORAGE

Rewritable Optical Still Not In Overdrive 35

BY JOHN McMULLEN Two years ago, pundits predicted rewritable optical drives would send hard disks packing. That hasn't happened, but several new drives and a little bit of help from Big Blue may yet jump start the technology.

NETWORKS

MAINTENANCE

Curing The LAN Support Blues 41

BY SUSAN KERR Do you have your hands full trying to maintain and manage multiple local area networks while handholding end users? Good news. An industry is springing up to do it for you.

DISASTER AVOIDANCE

Stop Net Faults Before They Stop You 44

BY IVAN FRISCH Equipment and software often interact in unanticipated ways to bring down a network. This major problem is only beginning to be recognized, and users need the tools to tackle it.

SOFTWARE

CLIENT/SERVER

Plug Your Customers In 49

BY MARK SCHLACK A major shipping line lets customers connect to its distributed wide area workstation network, giving them instant service for up-to-the-minute information on the status of cargo, billing and booking.

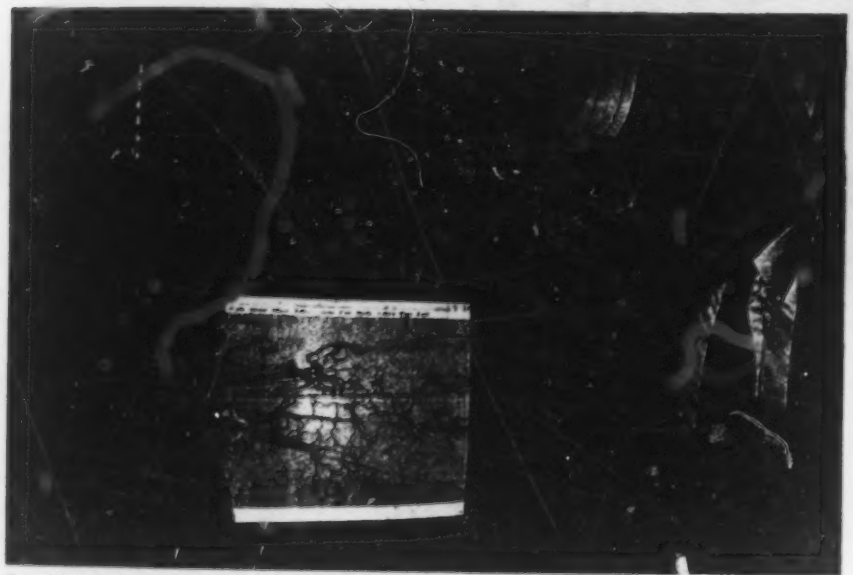
SYSTEMS

OLTP

UNIX Goes On Line 53

BY JEFF MOAD UNIX promises low-cost distributed transaction processing. Some industrial-strength monitors are coming to market now, but standards have not yet been pinned down. Do you want to make the gamble?

Burlington Coat's Prince: A pioneer of UNIX TP monitors.



Brooklyn Polytech's Frisch keeps a watchful eye on networking traffic, page 44

INTERNATIONAL

Special supplement, not included in all issues. 32-4

DEPARTMENTS

Inside DATAMATION. 8
Letters And Access. 10
Look Ahead. 15
Media Report. 19
Career Opportunities. 73
Ad Index. 78
Company Index. 78
Market Insights. 79
Future Vision. 80

MARKET INSIGHTS

A SURVEY OF TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

Everybody Wants A Piece Of T1

BY WARREN CHILDS
Business Research Group

The most recent survey of the DATAMATION Technology Panel shows a strong and growing interest in fractional T1 services. Twenty-one percent of panel members are currently using T1 services, and an additional 15% plan to implement them.

The introduction of fractional T1 services makes 64-kilobit-per-second transmission capacity available for wide area network applications without leasing full T1 capacity. Despite the fact that T1 costs have dropped more than 50% over the last three years, many IS managers still can't justify the cost of full T1 pipes in view of their data communications requirements. Typical data communication applications require speeds of 19.2Kbps or less, and switched 56Kbps services are available for higher speed needs.

However, IS managers, expecting growth in distributed client/server and peer-to-peer processing applications, are out in search of access to greater bandwidth capacity. Fractional T1 gives them just that at a fraction of full T1's cost (pun intended).

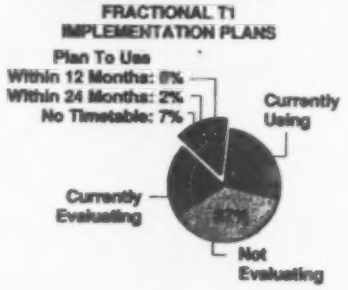
As the use of fractional T1 lines grows, equipment vendors will begin to see the need for more equipment offering fractional capabilities. The market for multiplexers equipped for fractional T1 is projected to more than double from $32 million in 1990 to $77 million in 1993.

Eventually, improvements in fast packet technologies like frame relay will make their access more widely available and will take some of the steam out of fractional T1 service growth. Fast packet switching will have the added advantage of usage-based pricing, making it especially attractive to sites where wide bandwidth is needed only sporadically. ▭

For more information, call Nancy Finn at (617)-964-6204, fax her at (617)-558-4402 or write to her at the Business Research Group, 275 Washington Street, Newton, MA 02158.

Hot New Technology: Fractional T1

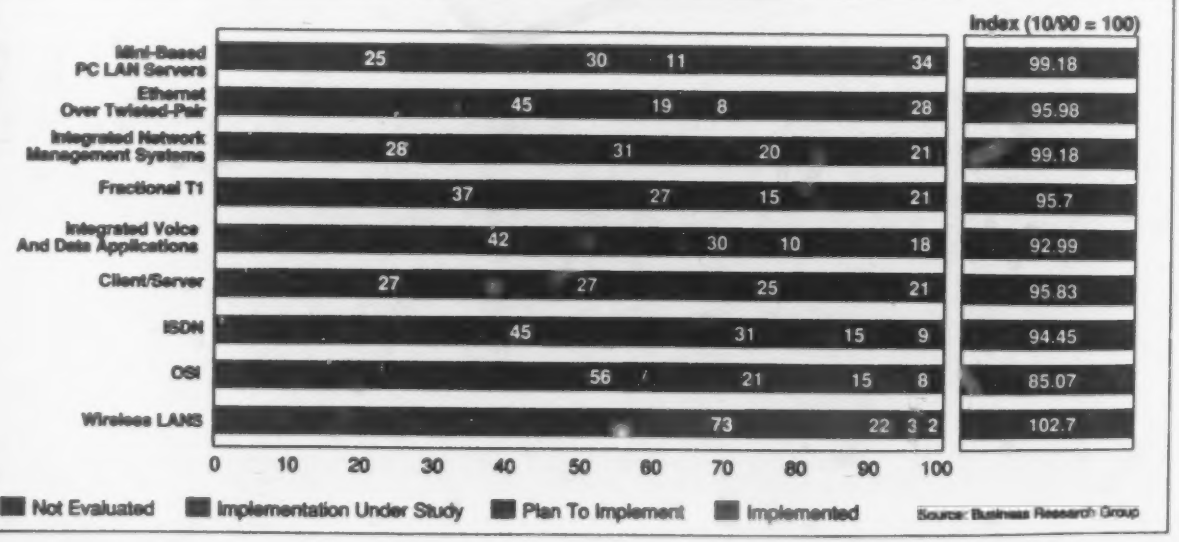
With a healthy percentage of users implementing or planning to implement fractional T1 multiplexing for their communications needs...



The market for T1 products is rising at breakneck speed

Source: DATAMATION, Business Research Group

DATAMATION's Technology Implementation Index: Networks/Communications



Source: Business Research Group